

REMARKS

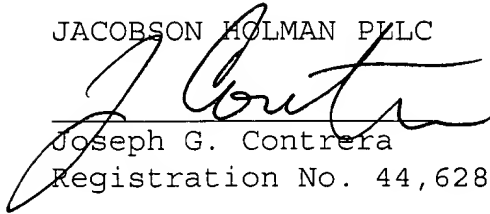
In the Office Action of September 9, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Richmond et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,067,964 (Richmond). The Examiner states that Richmond discloses an implant having a first and second polymeric component, where the chain length of one of the polymeric materials is longer than the other (Richmond, col. 3, lines 36-42). A reading of the indicated section indicates that Richmond discloses an embodiment having polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon™) and urethane. The Examiner also objected to claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16-53 and 56-57 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the intervening claims.

In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to disclaim polytetrafluoroethylene and claim 1 further amended to disclaim urethane from the claimed embodiments. It is believed that these amendments render the outstanding rejection moot, and Applicants respectfully request its withdrawal.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC



Joseph G. Contrera

Registration No. 44,628

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
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